



Chilling out: Erin Heywood, Rachele Walkden and Kelly Martyn at the Get-Together. Pictures: FIONA HAMILTON

Graziers vow to defy ban

THOUSANDS of mountain cattlemen gathered in Victoria's Alpine National Park at the weekend, for a get-together that may have been their last.

The annual Mountain Cattlemen's Association Get-Together attracted huge crowds for three days of camping, bushcraft and competitions including the Cattlemen's Cup.

But politics also flavoured the weekend, as Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria president Doug Treasure called on thousands of revellers to vote against Labor in the November state election.

The call comes after the State Government banned grazing in the Alpine National Park.

"The Government has

Mary Bolling

taken our licences, it has taken our connection with the land that goes back 170 years, and it has taken Victorians' living culture and heritage," Mr Treasure said.

He arrived at the Get-Together leading a protest group of cattlemen and cattle through the park, and said protests would continue.

"The cattlemen are going to drive stock through the Alpine National Park each year until we get our licences back," he said.

The event began on Friday night at Rose Valley south of Wangaratta, attracting more than 4000 cattlemen and their families.

Sarah Wotherspoon, P20



Pack drill: Brett Lancaster arrives in style from Benambra.



Family affair: Luke McMillan and son, Jake.



Hot work: Trent West and Matt Pettifoe cool down after the Bushmen's Challenge.

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